

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47), the ranking female member on the House Armed Services Committee, today issued the following statement regarding the Defense Department's announcement of major naval exercises by the U.S. and South Korea:

"Joint U.S.-South Korea naval exercises will help strengthen the U.S.-South Korea strategic partnership and increase the readiness of our troops. In light of the recent Cheonan incident, we must send a clear message that our nations cannot and will not tolerate acts of military aggression by North Korea or any other state. Joint military exercises demonstrate that the U.S.-North Korea alliance is strong and we are committed to securing the region from potential threats. I applaud the Defense Department for this high-level show of unity."